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LADAS & PARRY LLP 26 WEST 61ST STREET NEW YORK, NY 10023			ABRISHAMKAR, KAVEH	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/588,324	NIWATA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KAVEH ABRISHAMKAR	2431	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/3/2006.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on August 3, 2006. Claims 1-17 were currently presented for consideration. No claims were added or cancelled by virtue of the preliminary amendment.
2. Claims 1-17 are currently pending consideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS (form 1449), received on 8/3/2006, is attached to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In the independent claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10, the phrase "recorded in itself" is used. In each instance, it is difficult to ascertain what "itself" is referring to (the client computer or the portable processing device), and therefore renders the claim indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,668,322).

Regarding claim 1, Wood discloses:

A computer system comprising:

a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);

a server computer (110, 120) connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55);

a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network; and portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21) issued respectively to individual users for use upon connection to the client computers (column 5, lines 46-55);

wherein a unique identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) is recorded in each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) so as to enable distinction from other client computers, an identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) that corresponds to a specific identification code recorded in a specific client computer is recorded

in each of the portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21) (column 12, lines 50-57), and

each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) comprises an interface means (11D) for connecting a portable information recording medium (R11, R12, R21), an identification code comparing means (11C) that compares an identification code recorded in a currently connected portable information recording medium (R11) and an identification code recorded in itself, an access right setting means (11B) that sets a predetermined access right based on a comparison result, and a server access means (11A) that performs access to the server computer within a range of the access right that has been set (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 2, Wood discloses:

A computer system comprising:

- a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);
- a server computer (110, 120) connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55);
- a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and
- portable information processing devices (P11) issued respectively to individual users for use upon connection to the client computers (column 5, lines 46-55, column 12, lines 50-57); wherein

a unique identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) is recorded in each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) so as to enable distinction from other client computers (column 12, lines 50-57),

an identification code (ID(11)) that corresponds to a specific identification code recorded in a specific client computer is recorded in each of the portable information processing devices (P11), each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) comprises an interface means (11D) for connecting a portable information processing device (P11), and a server access means (11A) that performs access to the server computer (110, 120) within a range of an access right that is transmitted from a currently connected portable information processing device (P11) (column 12, lines 50-57), and

each of the portable information processing devices (P11) comprises an identification code comparing means (11E) that compares an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in a currently connected client computer (11) and an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in itself, an access right setting means (11F) that sets a predetermined access right based on a comparison result, and an access right transmitting means (11G) that transmits, to the currently connected client computer (11), the access right that has been set (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Claim 3 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Wood discloses:

The computer system according to claim 1, wherein

the access right setting means (11B, 11F) sets a first access right when the comparison result indicates matching and sets a second access right, with more restrictions than the first access right, when the comparison result indicates mismatching (column 11, lines 36-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 5, Wood discloses:

A computer system comprising: a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55); a server computer (110, 120) connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21) issued respectively to individual users for use upon connection to the client computers (column 5, lines 46-55); wherein

environment information (ENV(11), ENV(12), ENV(21)) that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11, 12, 21) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) is recorded in each of the portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21) (column 6, lines 7-22), and

each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) comprises an interface means (11D) for connecting a portable information recording medium (R11, R12, R21), an environment comparing means (11H) that compares a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in a currently connected portable information recording medium (R11) and a current network environment of itself, an access right setting means (11B) that sets a predetermined access right based on a comparison result, and a server access

means (11A) that performs access to the server computer within a range of the access right that has been set (column 6, lines 7-22, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 6, Wood discloses:

A computer system comprising:

- a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);
- a server computer (110, 120) connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55);
- a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and
- portable information processing devices (P11) issued respectively to individual users for use upon connection to the client computers (column 5, lines 46-55); wherein
 - environment information that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11, 12, 21) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) is recorded in each of the portable information processing devices (P11), each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) comprises an interface means (11D) for connecting a portable information processing device (P11), and a server access means (11A) that performs access to the server computer (110, 120) within a range of an access right that is transmitted from a currently connected portable information processing device (P11) (column 6, lines 7-22), and

each of the portable information processing devices (P11) comprises an environment comparing means (11I) that compares a network environment of a currently connected client computer and a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in itself, an access right setting means (11F) that sets a predetermined access right based on a comparison result, and an access right transmitting means (11G) that transmits, to the currently connected client computer (11), the access right that has been set (column 6, lines 7-22, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Claim 7 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 5. Furthermore, Wood discloses:

The computer system according to claim 5, wherein the access right setting means (11B, 11F) sets a first access right when the comparison result indicates matching and sets a second access right, with more restrictions than the first access right, when the comparison result indicates mismatching (column 11, lines 36-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 9, Wood discloses:

A computer system comprising:
a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);
a server computer (110, 120) connected to the network; a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and

portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21) issued respectively to individual users for use upon connection to the client computers; wherein a unique identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) is recorded in each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) so as to enable distinction from other client computers (column 5, lines 46-55),

an identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) that corresponds to a specific identification code recorded in a specific client computer and environment information (ENV(11), ENV(12), ENV(21)) that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11, 12, 21) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) are recorded in each of the portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21) (column 6, lines 7-22), and

each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) comprises an interface means (11D) for connecting a portable information recording medium (R11, R12, R21), an identification code comparing means (11C) that compares an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in a currently connected portable information recording medium (R11) and an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in itself, an environment comparing means (11H) that compares a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in a currently connected portable information recording medium (R11) and a current network environment of itself, an access right setting means (11B) that sets a predetermined access right based on comparison results, and a server access means (11A) that performs access to the server computer within a range of the

access right that has been set (column 6, lines 7-22, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 10, Wood discloses:

A computer system comprising:

a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55); a server computer (110,120) connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55);
a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and

portable information processing devices (P11) issued respectively to individual users for use upon connection to the client computers (column 5, lines 46-55); wherein

a unique identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) is recorded in each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) so as to enable distinction from other client computers (column 12, lines 50-57),

an identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) that corresponds to a specific identification code recorded in a specific client computer and environment information (ENV(11), ENV(12), ENV(21)) that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11, 12, 21) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) are recorded in each of the portable information processing devices (P11),each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) comprises an interface means (11D) for connecting a portable information processing device (P11), and a server access means (11A) that

performs access to the server computer (110, 120) within a range of an access right that is transmitted from a currently connected portable information processing device (P11) (column 6, lines 7-22), and

each of the portable information processing devices (P11) comprises an identification code comparing means (11E) that compares an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in a currently connected client computer (11) and an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in itself, an environment comparing means (11I) that compares a network environment of the currently connected client computer and a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in itself, an access right setting means (11F) that sets a predetermined access right based on comparison results, and an access right transmitting means (11G) that transmits, to the currently connected client computer (11), the access right that has been set (column 6, lines 7-22, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Claim 11 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 9. Furthermore, Wood discloses:

The computer system according to claim 9, wherein the access right setting means (11B, 11F) sets a first access right when the result of comparison by the identification code comparing means (11C, 11E) indicates matching, sets a second access right, with more restrictions than the first access right, when the result of comparison by the identification code comparing means (11C, 11E) indicates mismatching but the result of comparison

by the environment comparing means (11H, 11I) indicates matching, and sets a third access right, with even more restrictions than the second access right, when neither of the comparison results indicates matching (column 11, lines 36-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Claim 12 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 9. Furthermore, Wood discloses:

The computer system according to claim 9, wherein the access right setting means (11B, 11F) sets a first access right when both the result of comparison by the identification code comparing means (11C, 11E) and the result of comparison by the environment comparing means (11H, 11I) indicate matching, sets a second access right, with more restrictions than the first access right, when the result of comparison by the identification code comparing means (11C, 11E) indicates matching but the result of comparison by the environment comparing means (11H, 11I) indicates mismatching, and sets a third access right, with even more restrictions than the second access right, when neither of the comparison results indicates matching (column 11, lines 36-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 13, Wood discloses:

An access right setting method for a computer system comprising:
a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);

a server computer (110, 120) connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and

a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55);

the method setting an access right when each individual user uses a client computer to access the server computer and comprising:

a preparation step, wherein a portable information processing device (P11), to be used by connecting to a client computer (11, 12, 21), is issued to each individual user, and an identification code (ID(11)), corresponding to a unique identification code that is recorded in a specific client computer (11) and enables distinction of the specific client computer from other client computers, is recorded in the portable information processing device (column 12, lines 50-57); and

an access right setting step, wherein when a user connects a predetermined portable information processing device (P11), issued to him/herself, to a predetermined client computer (11) and performs a login procedure on the predetermined client computer, the predetermined client computer (11) or the predetermined portable information processing device (P11) is made to compare an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in the predetermined client computer (11) with an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in the predetermined portable information processing device (P11) and set a predetermined access right based on a comparison result (column 12, lines 50-57);

wherein when in the access right setting step, the comparison result indicates mismatching, an access right with more restrictions than when the comparison result indicates matching is set (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 14, Wood discloses:

An access right setting method for a computer system comprising:
a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);
a server computer (110, 120) connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and
a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); the method setting an access right when each individual user uses a client computer to access the server computer and comprising:
a preparation step, wherein a portable information processing device (P11), to be used by connecting to a client computer (11, 12, 21), is issued to each individual user, and environment information (ENV(11)) that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) is recorded in the portable information processing device (column 6, lines 7-22); and
an access right setting step, wherein when a user connects a predetermined portable information processing device (P11), issued to him/herself, to a predetermined client computer (11) and performs a login procedure on the predetermined client computer, the predetermined client

computer (11) or the predetermined portable information processing device (P11) is made to compare a current network environment of the predetermined client computer (11) with a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in the predetermined portable information processing device (P11) and set a predetermined access right based on a comparison result (column 6, lines 7-22, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65);

wherein when in the access right setting step, the comparison result indicates mismatching, an access right with more restrictions than when the comparison result indicates matching is set (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 15, Wood discloses:

An access right setting method for a computer system comprising:
a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);
a server computer (110, 120), connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and
a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); the method setting an access right when each individual user uses a client computer to access the server computer and comprising:
a preparation step, wherein a portable information processing device (P11), to be used by connecting to a client computer (11, 12, 21), is issued to each individual user, and an identification code (ID(11)), corresponding to a unique identification code that is recorded in a specific client computer (11) and

enables distinction of the specific client computer from other client computers, and environment information (ENV(11)) that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) are recorded in the portable information processing device (column 6, lines 7-22, column 12, lines 50-57); and

an access right setting step, wherein when a user connects a predetermined portable information processing device (P11), issued to him/herself, to a predetermined client computer (11) and performs a login procedure on the predetermined client computer, the predetermined client computer (11) or the predetermined portable information processing device (P11) is made to compare an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in the predetermined client computer (11) with an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in the predetermined portable information processing device (P11), compare a current network environment of the predetermined client computer (11) with a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in the predetermined portable information processing device (P11), and set a predetermined access right based on comparison results (column 6, lines 7-22, column 12, lines 50-57);

wherein in the access right setting step, if an identification code comparison result indicates matching, a first access right is set, if the identification code comparison result indicates mismatching but a network environment comparison result indicates matching, a second access right, with more restrictions than the first access right, is set, and if neither of the

comparison results indicate matching, a third access right, with even more restrictions than the second access right, is set (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Regarding claim 16, Wood discloses:

An access right setting method for a computer system comprising:
a network (100) (column 5, lines 46-55);
a server computer (110, 120), connected to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); and
a plurality of client computers (11, 12, 21) connectable to the network (column 5, lines 46-55); the method setting an access right when each individual user uses a client computer to access the server computers and comprising:
a preparation step, wherein a portable information processing device (P11), to be used by connecting to a client computer (11, 12, 21), is issued to each individual user, and an identification code (ID(11)), corresponding to a unique identification code that is recorded in a specific client computer (11) and enables distinction of the specific client computer from other client computers, and environment information (ENV(11)) that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) are recorded in the portable information processing device (column 6, lines 7-22, column 12, lines 50-57); and
an access right setting step, wherein when a user connects a predetermined portable information processing device (P11), issued to

him/herself, to a predetermined client computer (11) and performs a login procedure on the predetermined client computer, the predetermined client computer (11) or the predetermined portable information processing device (P11) is made to compare an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in the predetermined client computer (11) with an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in the predetermined portable information processing device (P11), compare a current network environment of the predetermined client computer (11) with a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in the predetermined portable information processing device (P11), and set a predetermined access right based on comparison results (column 6, lines 7-22, column 12, lines 50-57);

wherein in the access right setting step, if both an identification code comparison result and a network environment comparison result indicate matching, a first access right is set, if the identification code comparison result indicates matching but the network environment comparison result indicates mismatching, a second access right, with more restrictions than the first access right, is set, and if neither of the comparison results indicate matching, a third access right, with even more restrictions than the second access right, is set (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Claim 17 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Wood discloses:

A program for making a computer function as a client computer in the computer system according to claim 1 or a computer-readable recording medium recording the program (column 12 lines 50-57, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,668,322) in view of Richmond et al. (U.S. Patent 6,990,592).

Claim 4 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Wood does not explicitly disclose a MAC address provided to a LAN communication circuit which is used as a unique ID for the client computer. Richmond, in an analogous art, discloses using a MAC address or an IP address, as a device identifier in a comparison step verifying the identity of a client (Richmond: column 27, lines 44-55). Wood uses many factors in the credential, and could be easily extended to include other information such as the MAC or IP address (Wood: column 12, lines 50-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to use a MAC or an IP

address, as is used in Richmond, as a device identifier as disclosed in Richmond to determine the identity of the user of the user device (Richmond: column 27, lines 50-55)

Claim 8 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 5. Wood does not explicitly disclose a IP address being used by the client computer as environmental information. Richmond, in an analogous art, discloses using a MAC address or an IP address, as a device identifier in a comparison step verifying the identity of a client (Richmond: column 27, lines 44-55). Wood uses many factors in the environmental information, and could be easily extended to include other information such as the MAC or IP address (Wood: column 6, lines 7-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to use a MAC or an IP address, as is used in Richmond, as a device identifier as disclosed in Richmond to determine the identity of the user of the user device (Richmond: column 27, lines 50-55).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAVEH ABRISHAMKAR whose telephone number is (571)272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kaveh Abrishamkar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/K. A./
05/24/2009
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431